

## **ARGUMENT Against Proposition 66**

Don't be fooled. Proposition 66 won't protect children or save tax money. It creates a new legal loophole for convicted criminals that will cost taxpayers millions of dollars and flood our streets with thousands of dangerous felons, including rapists, child molesters, and murderers. That's why Proposition 66 is strongly opposed by every major public safety, taxpayer, and child protection group in California, including:

- California Police Chiefs Association
- California District Attorneys Association
- Prevent Child Abuse California
- National Tax Limitation Committee
- California Sexual Assault Investigators Association
- California State Sheriffs' Association
- Mothers Against Gang Violence
- Marc Klaas, Klaas Kids Foundation

The California District Attorneys Association estimates Proposition 66 will release as many as 26,000 convicted felons from California prisons and return them to the counties for re-sentencing, where cash-strapped jails are already overflowing. These are not petty criminals and low-level drug offenders who steal pizzas and videotapes. These are dangerous hardcore criminals with long histories of serious and violent crimes. Most will have their sentences dramatically reduced if Proposition 66 is approved, including:

- Edward Rollins, a career criminal with a thirty-year history of serious and violent crime that includes burglary, assault with a deadly weapon, battery of a police officer, robbery, battery with serious bodily injury, receiving stolen property, possession of a sawed-off shotgun, sexual assault and multiple parole violations. Under Proposition 66 he could be eligible to apply for release.
- Kenneth Parnell, the notorious child molester who kidnapped and sexually assaulted young

Steven Staynor for seven years, and who recently was convicted of trying to buy a 4-year-old boy for \$500. Instead of serving 25 years to life for his crimes against children, Proposition 66 will set him free within weeks.

- Steven Matthews, a member of the Aryan Brotherhood with a violent criminal history that includes robbery, kidnapping, murder, and the rape of his mother. Instead of serving 25 years to life, Proposition 66 will put him back on the street in early 2005.

If Proposition 66 passes, arson, residential burglary, attempted burglary, criminal threats, felony gang crimes, and felonies like drunk driving in which innocent people are seriously hurt or killed will no longer be considered “strikes.” Likewise, juvenile sex offenders will no longer receive a strike for seriously injuring an elderly or disabled person during an assault with intent to commit rape.

California's crime rate has decreased by twice the national average since voters approved “Three Strikes” in 1994, according to FBI statistics. We've had two million fewer victims, taxpayers have saved an estimated \$28.5 billion and dangerous career criminals have been taken off the street. Instead of “fine-tuning” this important public safety law, Proposition 66 destroys it.

According to Wayne Quint, Jr., President of the California Coalition of Law Enforcement Associations: “Crime will go up and innocent people will be hurt or killed if Proposition 66 passes. This is a very dangerous initiative.”

We agree.

Don't give violent criminals another loophole to get out of prison. Vote NO on Proposition 66.

**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**, *Governor of California*

**BILL LOCKYER**, *Attorney General of California*

**HARRIET SALARNO**, *Chair*

*Crime Victims United of California*

## **REBUTTAL to Argument Against Proposition 66**

**DON'T BE FOOLED BY OPPONENTS' DECEPTIVE SCARE TACTICS.**

- **PROPOSITION 66 WON'T RELEASE A SINGLE “Striker,”** let alone thousands, serving time for rape, murder, or child molestation.
- **PROPOSITION 66 DOES NOT STOP ANYONE CONVICTED OF A CRIME FROM BEING FULLY PUNISHED FOR THEIR CRIME**—whether juvenile or adult, arsonist, murderer, or drunk driver, including examples cited by opponents.
- **PROPOSITION 66 DOESN'T “DESTROY” THREE STRIKES.** It does exactly what voters originally intended—punish repeat violent criminals with life sentences. Our opponents hope you'll be fooled. Here's the truth about Proposition 66:
- **PROPOSITION 66 RESTORES VOTERS' INTENT** of keeping violent criminals off our streets.
- **PROPOSITION 66 PROTECTS CHILDREN** by providing a tougher 1-Strike sentence for child molesters.
- **PROPOSITION 66 STOPS BILLIONS OF TAX DOLLARS FROM BEING WASTED** imprisoning shoplifters and other nonviolent petty offenders for life.
- Proposition 66 will allow three to four thousand non-violent petty offenders to apply for retrial, but *will not*

release a single violent striker.

- Criminals opponents cite have served sentences for violent crimes **BUT** are now incarcerated for nonviolent offenses.

California is the only state with a Three Strikes law that can send someone to prison for life for stealing a loaf of bread. *Proposition 66 will make sure the time fits the crime.*

Major newspapers across California haven't been fooled by deceptive scare tactics and have repeatedly called for Three Strikes to match voters' intent.

**RESTORE THREE STRIKES TO ITS PROMISE, TOUGHEN LAWS AGAINST CHILD MOLESTERS, SAVE TAXPAYERS BILLIONS.**

**VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 66**—Three Strikes as voters meant it to be in the first place.

**MARK LENO**, *Chairman*

*California State Assembly Committee on Public Safety*

**RAMONA RIPSTON**, *Executive Director*

*A.C.L.U. of Southern California*

**JOE KLAAS**, *Chairman*

*Citizens Against Violent Crime*